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**International Experts Present at Massachusetts Homeland Security Conference**

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and the Department of Fire Services are hosting a conference for public safety first responders, firefighters, public health officials, police, emergency managers, hazardous devices technicians and emergency medical service providers on how to prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism and incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. The conference is taking place at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center, 219 Littleton Road (Route 110), Westford, MA. This conference draws together some of the world's leading experts on the issues surrounding terrorist acts.

Among the presenters will be Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety Robert C. Haas. Secretary Haas, who serves as the Homeland Security Advisor for the Governor is responsible for management of a variety of agencies directly involved in homeland security including the Massachusetts National Guard, the Department of State Police, the Department of Fire Services, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Correction and manages a budget in excess of \$1 billion dollars.

"This conference provides the first responder community an opportunity to learn from terrorism experts, to share best practices and to discuss lessons learned during real life emergency situations," said Secretary Haas. "We need our first responders to be ready to hit the ground running when they are called into action and this conference will help them do just that."

Featured speakers included:

- ◆ Dr. Brian Schwartz, MD, CCFP (EM) F, Director, Sunnybrook-Osler Centre for Prehospital Care, Toronto, Ontario spoke on the SARS outbreak;
- ◆ Armando Bevelacqua, District Chief, Special Operations, Orlando Fire Dept.; who spoke on applying risk-based chemistry and toxicology to hazardous materials responses;

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- ◆ Robert W. Norville and Thomas K. Warnock, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program prepared emergency medical responders to identify exposure to chemical weapons and provide initial treatment;
- ◆ Albert H. Fluman, Director National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center discussed integration of NIMS as the community level;
- ◆ Capt. James L. McDonald Jr., Boston Sector Commander U.S. Coast Guard; and
- ◆ Michael Russas, who served as the Preparedness Coordinator for the Division of Homeland Security in the Executive Office of Public Safety, Office of Homeland Security.

Other featured speakers included:

- ◆ Chief James Nicholas Russo, ret., federal coordinating officer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency spoke on incident management and the Katrina Hurricane response; Lt. Joseph J. Leonard Jr., U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, Galveston, Texas spoke on lessons learned in the Katrina hurricane response;
- ◆ Lt. John Clark ret., Oklahoma Police Department, spoke on the aftermath of the Murrah building bombing;
- ◆ Firefighter/ Paramedic Walter Guertin, Attleboro Fire Department, recently returned from Iraq spoke on improvised explosive device evident collection, analysis and countermeasures;
- ◆ Deputy Chief Gary Ludwig, Memphis (TN) Fire Department spoke on risk management for chief officers;
- ◆ Michael V. Hunter, Calhoun County Alabama Joint Terrorism Task Force spoke on the fundamentals of WMD crime scene management;
- ◆ Dr. Hayden Duggan of the On-Site Academy discussed post-combat recovery and reintegration of first responders in the war on terrorism;
- ◆ Scott Kenfield, coordinator of the Health and Homeland Alert Network (HHAN) outlined their capabilities;
- ◆ Mass. State Police Tpr. William Qualls, Hazardous Device Technician assigned to the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section in the Office of the State Fire Marshal will speak on liquid explosives recognition;
- ◆ Thomas F. O'Connell, MS, is a Certified Health Officer with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and a consultant to the International Atomic Energy Agency spoke on dealing with radioactive materials;
- ◆ Gordon Diotalevi, Assistant Coordinator for Hazardous Material Counterterrorism Group Training and Joanne M. Caruso, DFS Information Technologist ran a multi-agency incident command simulation; Ronald Peimer and Amy Hamel of the NI2 Center for Infrastructure Expertise spoke on their new CARVER2™ software for protecting critical infrastructure.
- ◆ Ms. Kerra Noyes, of the State Police Fusion Center, presented on how the center collects and analyzes information.